kerosene for domestic use was not increased on 20.3.1992 and 16.9.1992. It was decreased by 10% on 25.7.1991.

Date	% Increase
20.3.1990	10.57
15.10.1990	23.08
25.07.1991	5.80
16.09.1992	18.27

Withdrawal of Gulf surcharge

324. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the 25 per cent hike imposed as Gulf surcharge have not been withdrawn despite the fact that the Gulf crisis was over in 1991 and the world crude prices had tumbled down to 18 dollars a barrel; and

(b) if so, what arc the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) Gulf surcharge levy has not been withdrawn in view of the continued buoyancy in the crude oil prices.

Vacancies in Group 'D' Posts in Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited

325. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of vacancies in Group 'D' post (General Workmen) have been lying vacant in Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited in its Regional Office, Jeewan Bharati Building, New Delhi;

(b) whether it is also a fact that candidates sponsored by the Employment Exchange have been awaiting in queue for their interviews/ selections since a very long time; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Demand by Maharashtra Govt, for second gas terminal

326. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAM-RAO PATIL: DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Maharashtra has requested for second gas terminal at USAR and allotment of more gas from Bombay High;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what decision Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) A proposal to this effect was received from the Government of Maharashtra in June, 1992.

(c) In view of the allocations already made within the availability of gas, additional allocations of gas are not being considered for the present.

Supply of gas to M/s. Tata Electric Company

327. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question 1376 in the Rajya Sabha on the 22nd July, 1992 and state:

(a) whether Gas supplies to M/s Tata Electric Company (TEC) has been restored; if so, when;